

**Before the  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the <b>Matter of</b>	)	
	)	
Development of Operational, Technical and	)	<b>WT Docket No. 96-86</b>
<b>Spectrum</b> Requirements for Meeting Federal,	)	
State and <b>Local</b> Public Safety	)	
Communications Requirements Through the	)	
Year 2010	)	
	)	
<b>Service</b> Rules for the 498-746,747-762	)	<b>WT Docket No. 06-1 50</b>
and 777-792 MHz Bands	)	
	)	
Former Nextel Communications, Inc.	)	<b>WT Docket No. 06-169</b>
<b>Upper</b> 700 MHz Guard Band	)	
<b>Licenses</b> and Revisions to <b>Part</b> 27 of	)	
the Commission's Rules	)	
	)	
Implementing a Nationwide,	)	<b>PS Docket No. 06-229</b>
Broadband, Interoperable Public	)	
Safety <b>Network</b> in the 700 MHz	)	
Band	)	

**COMMENTS OF REGION #13 ILLINOIS 700 MHZ PLANNING COMMITTEE**

The Region #13 700 MHz Planning Committee hereby submits these comments in response to the Commission's *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* in the above-captioned proceedings.

The Region #13 700 MHz Planning Committee supports the **concept** of broadband in the 700 MHz public safety spectrum and believes that there is merit in considering a nationwide broadband system for interoperability reasons. The Committee is not, however, convinced that reducing **local** control and limiting the potential **for** alternative wideband and broadband data options at **the** local level is in the best interest of the public safety community,

Public safety agencies **need** to be **able** to individually license and construct private high-speed data networks at 700 MHz in order **to** address specialized needs for such things as **localized** disaster recovery efforts and local police, fire and EMS data and video services. These localized services **need** the flexibility of rapid deployment in remote **areas** where nation-wide services may not be **reachable** due to harsh terrain or low population density.

If broadband service is limited to only **a** single nation-wide network **and** one national license then underserved areas of the country could be overlooked.

It **is** imperative that a portion of the 700 MHz data spectrum be available for local control **and** that the option be retained at the local level to **select** both wideband and broadband data solutions. Local users must **be** able to immediately license more than just narrowband channels with a maximum bandwidth of 25 KHz if the true promise of 700 MHz data for public safety is to **be** realized and accomplished in a timely fashion. Under the current proposed **plan**, the full deployment of a single nation-wide broadband 700 MHz data **system** could delay the use of 700 MHz broadband technology at **the** local level by as much as **a** decade.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary Cochran

Chairperson

Region #13 Illinois 700 M H 7 Planning Cotnmittee

May 22, 2007